

until 1986, the city of Chicago mandated in its plumbing code that the service line from the water main to the home be made of lead—lead. We know lead is dangerous to everyone, certainly to children, and yet we have 23 percent of the lead service lines in America in Chicago and the surrounding area. That is a public health hazard. Some may not think that is infrastructure, but if you can't deliver safe drinking water to America, what else is important?

We need to rebuild our 5G broadband internet and expand it, renewable energy, and advanced research and technology. We need to create millions of jobs and to lay the foundation for American economic prosperity for decades to come.

Last night, on 60 Minutes, Chairman Jerome Powell spoke and was interviewed. It was a most encouraging report. He really believes we are right on the cusp of moving this Nation forward—dramatic increase in economic growth in this country. Isn't it about time? Don't we want a President who will invest in America to make that happen?

Senator MCCONNELL has already said he opposes President Biden's American Jobs Plan. Will our colleagues on the other side of the aisle really filibuster this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for America to lead the global economy of the 21st century? Will they really filibuster America's ability to compete and win against China in the competition for jobs and industries of the future? I hope not.

We are all sent to the Senate with a job, to fix the problems, not paralyze Congress. Despite what the dark money special interests might want, we should aim higher than killing good solutions with the filibuster. Let's talk, let's meet, and let's reason things out. Let's negotiate, and let's pass laws that protect America's democracy and our economic prosperity.

On January 6, hundreds of police officers risked their lives to protect democracy. Don't we owe them, for their courage and sacrifice, the respect of doing the work of democracy?

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

HONORING OFFICER WILLIAM F. EVANS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, on Good Friday, the U.S. Capitol Police were subjected to another violent attack. Once again, our uniformed heroes wound up in harm's way, and Officer Billy Evans, a friend and favorite of many here on the Senate side and a

faithful protector of the Capitol, was killed.

Investigators are still assessing what drove the perpetrator to attempt this attack on the Capitol and whether domestic, violent extremism played a role. He appears to have been captivated by the Nation of Islam—a racist, anti-Semitic, extreme group under the openly hateful leader, Louis Farrakhan.

His attack injured Officer Ken Shaver, and it stole away the life of Officer Evans from his children Logan and Abigail, his mother Janice, his entire family, and all of his friends and colleagues decades too soon.

Officer Evans was famous within the Senate for his friendly spirit and easy manner. He was the first face that many would see on the way to work here in the Capitol every day. His particular post often meant he was literally the first line of defense of the Congress—the interface between these grounds and the outside world. We could not have had a kinder and more likeable ambassador at this juncture or a more faithful protector to keep us safe.

It will be with tremendous grief, but tremendous gratitude, that we will welcome Officer Evans to the Capitol for a final time tomorrow where he will lie in honor in the Rotunda.

I think I speak for the entire Senate when I salute all of our U.S. Capitol Police officers for the heroism, courage, and resilience they displayed the Friday before last and which they display every single day. The Senate and the Nation are profoundly grateful for your selfless service.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Madam President, now, on a completely different matter, the Senate returns today from its State work period. We got to meet with constituents in our home States and hear firsthand about their most pressing concerns.

Unfortunately, back here in Washington, Democrats continue to roll out new reasons for the American people to worry. The week before last, the Biden administration unveiled their latest misleadingly titled legislation. This time, under the supposed veil of “infrastructure,” the White House has lumped together a motley assortment of the left's priciest priorities.

This plan would impose one of the biggest tax hikes in a generation when workers need an economic recovery. It would gut right-to-work protections for blue-collar workers. It would throw hundreds of billions at the far left's green fads. They even want to include a special State and local tax provision designed to overwhelmingly benefit wealthy residents of blue States. Less than 6 percent of this proposal goes to roads and bridges. It is not remotely targeted toward what Americans think they are getting when politicians campaign on infrastructure.

But instead of coming up with a better bill, Democrats have decided it is the English language that has to

change. They are embarking on an Orwellian campaign to convince everybody that any government policy whatsoever can be labeled “infrastructure.” Liberals just have to believe in it hard enough.

These Trojan horse tactics have become a pattern. Many of our Democratic colleagues are trying to rewrite 50 States' election laws from here in Washington and mount a partisan takeover of the Federal Election Commission but call the whole mess a “voting rights bill.”

The White House's claims about State election regulations keep getting disproven by fact checkers. But even so, some of the wealthiest and most powerful institutions in our country have bowed down to the fake narratives and decided to amplify the misstatements themselves.

So, look, I am as strong a supporter of the First Amendment and free speech as anyone in this body. I have been for many years. If people want to participate in debates through political speech, that is certainly their constitutional right, even if they fall for disinformation. But it is one thing to act like free speakers within a debate; it is very different to try to short-circuit the debate, to shut down the debate through economic bullying of American citizens.

BORDER SECURITY

Madam President, the last 2 weeks also brought more troubling signs from our southern border. Last month closed with Customs and Border Patrol reporting the highest total for migrant apprehensions in nearly two decades. But while Republican Senators traveled to the border, met with officials, and learned about the reality on the ground, the administration has preferred to inaccurately blame this recent spike on their predecessors.

BUDGET PROPOSAL

Madam President, finally—finally—last week, the White House rolled out a new budget proposal. I have been a supporter of Secretary Blinken and other officials' tough talk with the People's Republic of China. With Putin again massing forces on Ukraine's border, administration officials have been right—right—to warn against further Russian aggression.

This budget outline was going to be one of the first real tests to see if the administration was prepared to walk the walk and put sufficient funding toward our military and strategic competition with China and Russia, both of which have invested heavily in military capabilities that threaten our forces. Unfortunately, for all the rhetoric, the President has asked Congress to break from the positive trajectory of the last 4 years and instead cut defense spending after inflation.

That is going backward on national defense. This would undermine recent bipartisan progress, put the modernization of American forces in jeopardy, and help China toward their goal of overtaking the United States as the world's preeminent superpower.

This budget proposal sent a clear signal to the rest of the world, and unfortunately it suggests to our allies, from Eastern Europe to the South China Sea, that American resolve is far from guaranteed.

On all these issues, there is broad and deep bipartisan interest in working together—infrastructure legislation that actually focuses on infrastructure, voting legislation that actually makes it easier to vote and harder to cheat, and funding legislation that provides the Pentagon what it needs to keep up with China, Russia, and other adversaries. Legislation on all these topics has a track record of earning overwhelming bipartisan support.

All these issues are ripe for regular order, bipartisan work if the President and our Democratic colleagues are interested in going about them in the right way. But if the administration decides to reprise their tactics from February and March, if Democrats just declare “our way or the highway,” we will know they have chosen to create political controversies rather than make progress for American families.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, once again, I am here today to talk about the crisis at our southern border and the continued dismantling of our Nation's immigration system by this administration.

The border has been dominating the headlines, but if you talked to the liberals, you wouldn't know it. While we were back home working in our States, Democrats focused on everything but the border. President Biden released a so-called infrastructure proposal that is not actually about infrastructure; it is nothing more than the Green New Deal in disguise, and it raises taxes on hard-working Americans.

Additionally, large corporations and Major League Baseball decided to give in to the demands of the woke, liberal mob based on nothing more than pure disinformation.

I know President Biden and Democrats would rather talk about those issues than confront the dire situation at the southern border. They are trying to pull a con job on the American people. Well, we are not going to let President Biden distract from a crisis of his own making.

In a recent House hearing, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Mayorkas made a ridiculous claim that “the border is secure.” To say the border is secure is laughable. I recently joined Senators CORNYN and CRUZ and other colleagues on a visit to the southern border to see for ourselves,

and I can tell you and the American people without hesitation, the border is not secure. Reports just don't do it justice. It is a disaster. As an American who believes in the rule of law, I was embarrassed. This is not a Democratic or a Republican problem; it is an American problem. This crisis is a stain on our Nation.

What we saw on our trip broke my heart—so many young, unaccompanied children sent on a dangerous journey north by their parents because this administration promised to take them in. The compassion shown by the Border Patrol agents was clear. These brave men and women are doing all they can to make the best out of a terrible situation—a situation created by our President and his administration.

I have said it before, and I will say it again: The situation happening at our southern border was predictable and preventable. The Border Patrol folks know this will happen and that it would happen. They told us how they asked the Border Patrol before the inauguration to give them time to prepare for any changes to the immigration policy, but President Biden didn't listen. He was more interested in appeasing the globalists who demanded he immediately end President Trump's successful border policies.

On his first day in office, President Biden reversed President Trump's policies and signaled to the world that the American border was open. President Biden gave Border Patrol little to no warning. The result has been a border that is not run by the United States; it is run by the Mexican cartel and human smugglers.

What is worse, it is not just people who are coming in illegally. While I was down at the border, I saw firsthand how criminals take advantage of the situation. Cartels send migrants to specific locations along the border to pre-occupy law enforcement while moving illegal drugs at other crossing points. On a midnight visit to the Rio Grande, these traffickers actually taunted us from across the river, yelling and flashing their lights. They know the Biden administration is unwilling to confront them, and because the administration won't confront them, we have seen massive increases in drug seizures.

In January and February alone, Customs and Border Patrol seizures of fentanyl were up 277 percent compared to the same time in 2020. Cocaine seized at the border is up 62 percent. And, remember, whether it is people or drugs, these numbers only account for those we catch. There are many more drug runners who get through undetected.

Secretary Mayorkas has said the administration's goal is a safe, legal, and orderly immigration system. Well, so far, he and they have failed on all three. The immigration system under the Biden administration is not safe. By encouraging the migrants to come to the border, President Biden has empowered the drug cartels and coyotes who prey on desperate people.

According to Mexican intelligence assessments, it costs an unaccompanied Central American minor between \$3,000 and \$10,000 to be secured across the U.S. border. An open border also invites wolves in sheep's clothing. According to Customs and Border Protection, at least four people have been arrested in the last few months at the border who match names on the FBI's Terrorist Screening Database. There is no doubt that those who wish harm will take advantage of this crisis to infiltrate our country.

The Biden administration also is not enforcing the laws written by Congress. That is why I joined with 39 of my Republican colleagues to send a letter to the nonpartisan Government Accountability Office to investigate President Biden's unilateral decision to freeze funds for the border wall.

Congress specifically appropriated funds for border wall construction. I believe the President's actions infringe on Congress's constitutional power of the purse. I hope the GAO will quickly look into this so we can begin to restore border security.

Finally, the immigration system under the Biden administration is not orderly. In fact, it is chaotic. Our Border Patrol agents are overwhelmed. In March of this year, Border Patrol arrested more than 170,000 migrants crossing the border illegally. That is the worst month in 15 years. To put that in perspective for the folks back home, that means there are more illegal migrants rushing our border in 1 month than the entire population of Lee County, AL, where I live.

Last month, more than 18,700 unaccompanied minors were taken into custody by the Border Patrol. That is double the number they encountered in February.

This chaos is due entirely to President Biden's careless words and foolish policies. The Biden administration is content to let all who come here illegally stay. That is a recipe for disaster. The result is a border catastrophe.

I have spoken previously about commonsense actions to secure the border, such as continuing to build the wall and reinstating Migrant Protection Protocols. Here is one more. I recently introduced a bill that would require DHS to issue a notice to appear—called an NTA—to every migrant who is processed at the border.

We cannot—we cannot continue to release illegal immigrants into our country without establishing some accountability, such as a date for immigration court. At best, it hurts those who come to this country actually looking to plead their asylum case. At worst, it is giving free rein to those who enter our country illegally.

The Biden administration says they want humane and compassionate improvements to our immigration system. Releasing someone without an NTA is neither.

My bill also requires the Department of Homeland Security to revoke any